

Swahili

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

September 28, 2018

1 Language Information

- Source: Ashton (1944)
- Glottlog: <http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/swah1253>
- ISO-identifier: swh
- Speakers:
- Location: Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda
- Geneology: Atlantic-Congo > Volta-Congo > Benue-Congo > Bantoid > Southern Bantoid > Narrow Bantu > East Bantu > Northeast Savanna Bantu > Northeast Coastal Bantu > Coastal NEC Bantu > Sabaki-Swahili > Swahili (G.40) > Mombasa-Lamu-Inland Swahili > Swahili

2 Nominal Morphology

Plurality is marked by prefixes.

3 Verbal Morphology

The verb agrees in person and number with the subject.

4 Conjunction

The conjunctions in Swahili are *na* 'and, also' (= the preposition 'with'), *pia* 'also, too', *lakini* 'but, nevertheless', *ila* 'but, except, unless', *bali* 'but rather'. Words and sentences can be joined by phrases (based on *kwa*), by borrowings from Arabic, or by certain tense forms.

- (1) Lete kisu na kikombe. Lete na vijiko pia.
?

'Bring a knife and a cup; bring a spoon as well.' [Ashton, 1944, p. 199]

- (2) Masawa una gati kama Kilindini, ila gati yake ni ndogo.
?

'Masawa has a landing-stage the same as Kilindini, but it is small(er).' [Ashton, 1944, p. 201]

5 Disjunction

Disjunction is marked by *au* 'or'.

- (3) Wapi mbali zaidi, kutoka A mpaka B au kutoka C mpaka D?
?

'Which is the greater distance, from A to B or from C to D?' [Ashton, 1944, p. 202]

6 Prepositions

Here is a list with some of the prepositions found in Swahili.

1. *kwa* 'by means of, by, with, through, for, to, at, from'
2. *na* 'with, by'
3. *chini ya* 'below'
4. *juu ya* 'on, over'
5. *kabla ya/ mbele ya* 'before'
6. *baada ya/ nyuma ya* 'after'
7. *ndani ya* 'inside'
8. *nje ya* 'outside'
9. *kati ya* 'between'
10. *karibu na* 'near'

References

Ashton, E. O. (1944). *Swahili Grammar, including intonation*. London: Longmans, Green and Co.